

Environmental Report

July 2021

Environmental Manager Teresa Sidwell

ERADICATION – During the month of July our CDL licensed Sr. Environmental Officer, Tim Filbeck used the grapple truck to remove waste illegally dumped on the side of county roads outside city limits on Columbia Hollow Road in the Decatur area and Esculapia Hollow Road in the Monte Ne area. In addition, staff took the trailer out to retrieve more than 50 tires dumped on Anzac Drive outside the city of Lowell. Although illegal dumping is caused by few people, it affects everyone.

More than 50 tires were found scattered down Anzac Drive in the Lowell area.



Officer Spry investigates two large roadside dumps of household items outside Gentry.



Pick Up Where You Play – Our Division will be participating in this event once again in the fall. We encourage you to put these dates on your calendar and join us in picking up litter in the Prairie Creek area.

*September 19 - Old Prairie Creek area

*October 3 - Hwy 12 bridge parking area

*October 17 - Prairie Creek Recreation Area



The County Teaching Garden is still bursting with color (pictured below). We use the garden to educate the public about alternative stormwater management using native plants. Stop by for a visit any time at the Benton County Road Department located on 14th Street in Bentonville.



Spry Cracks the Case – Our newest team member Officer Kelsey Spry was celebrated with a cookie cake for “cracking” a tough case. Several construction waste dump sites were reported and over night, additional dump sites were found in the area. Acting quickly, Officer Spry was able to find evidence. The owner of the waste stated they had their home remodeled and paid a significant amount of money to someone to dispose of the waste.

Illegal dumping onto someone else's property is a crime. If we cannot locate the person that illegally dumped the waste, the owner of the waste is responsible for the cleanup. Home owners are advised by our staff to request receipts as proof of proper disposal **BEFORE** paying someone to haul their waste away with payment **AFTER** services are rendered.



EDUCATION - We can make our county a safe and healthy place to live but in order for our division to be successful we must utilize Education, Eradication, and Enforcement. A big thank you to Channing Barker, Benton County Communications Director for helping us to educate the public about proper waste disposal. You can watch a video (pictured above left) about illegal dumping at <https://vimeo.com/573153342> as well as other county educational videos.

The **Special Waste Drop-off** is provided by Benton County, the Cities and the Benton County Solid Waste District for recycling and disposal of large household items and household hazardous waste. Limited household items accepted free or for low cost.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

SMALL CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON OUR PLANET!

WASTE COLLECTED AT SPECIAL WASTE DROP-OFF SITES

CENTERTON	# LOADS	# NON-REFRIGERATED	# REFRIGERATED	# ELECTRONICS	# METAL	# FURNITURE/OVERSIZED	# HHW
July	1,041	55	93	304	1,305	964	167
TOTAL Y-T-D	5,688	307	395	1,682	5,906	4,689	840
ROGERS	# LOADS	# NON-REFRIGERATED	# REFRIGERATED	# ELECTRONICS	# METAL	# FURNITURE/OVERSIZED	# HHW
July	727	45	63	257	818	686	160
TOTAL Y-T-D	3,291	165	205	962	3,685	3,074	649
SILOAM SPRINGS	# LOADS	# NON-REFRIGERATED	# REFRIGERATED	# ELECTRONICS	# METAL	# FURNITURE/OVERSIZED	# HHW
July	66	1	5	44	23	24	25
TOTAL Y-T-D	418	13	33	286	213	155	147

The Smash My Trash mobile trash smashing machine compacts wastes and reduces cost of waste disposal.



SPECIAL WASTE DROP-OFF PROGRAM COST TO COUNTY

2021 County Expenses	Bulky Waste Centerton	Bulky Waste Rogers	Bulky Waste Siloam Springs	Household Hazardous Waste*	Advertising	In-house recycling	Roadside Cleanups	Nuisance Cases	Operations Costs	TOTALS
BUDGET	\$62,000.00	\$43,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$33,150.00	\$42,510.09	\$ 232,060.09
ACTUAL										
JANUARY	\$ 2,225.68	\$ 1,473.00	\$ 104.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 3,803.00
FEBRUARY	\$ 2,753.10	\$ 2,444.62	\$ 106.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5.58	\$ 112.50	-	\$ 5,422.74
MARCH	\$ 4,737.49	\$ 4,843.54	\$ 474.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38.69	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 10,627.52	\$ 25,421.76
APRIL	\$ 5,777.24	\$ 3,840.56	\$ 474.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,627.52	\$ 20,719.84
MAY	\$ 4,113.20	\$ 3,009.44	\$ 106.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,229.58
JUNE	\$ 8,032.91	\$ 7,011.55	\$ 474.52	\$ -	\$ 106.40	\$ 79.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,705.37
JULY	\$ 4,715.61	\$ 2,820.53	\$ 474.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29.94	\$3,400.00	\$10,627.52	\$ 22,068.12
Y-T-D	\$ 32,355.23	\$ 25,443.24	\$ 2,216.28	\$ -	\$ 106.40	\$ 79.99	\$ 74.21	\$ 8,212.50	\$ 31,882.56	\$ 100,370.41

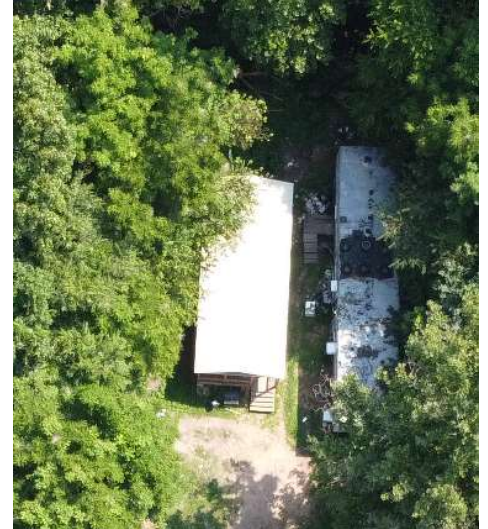
*BCSWD will use up to \$30,000 of their budget for HHW before billing the County.

ENFORCEMENT – Our drones are an important officer safety tool for our division. They are used to survey illegal dump sites and collect evidence that can be difficult to reach any other way. Sr. Officer Tim Filbeck has taken approximately 80 hours of Drone Pilot Ground School and strives to achieve weekly drone training. Each drone flight averages 7 – 12 minutes in length. He has 3.58 flight hours, and has flown 54 flights for a total of 18.5 miles. Sr. Officer Filbeck feels that officer safety is the most important benefit of drones for our division.

Drone survey of a rugged 6 acre property outside Rogers (top left). Property owners are happy to get help with removal of waste washed onto their property by flood waters in a wet weather creek and located by air (top right) outside Bentonville.



Inspecting a large 7 acre property outside Gentry (bottom left) was a difficult task on foot but a drone flight reduced risk and provided better documentation of the site. Large piles of waste, sewerage, and the welfare of elderly residents on the property outside Sulphur Springs (below right) was reported. Due to the additional report of potential hostile activity by the suspected violator on this property a drone flight was conducted prior to contact.



ENFORCEMENT – With population growth, we have seen a 51% increase in reports of illegal dumping over the last couple of years. Resources and time invested in each case varies from one visit to as many as twelve visits over the course of a year. In July we received 26 new reports of illegal waste disposal. Currently, we have 13 cases in the court system. Many properties in Benton County that have environmental violations, took years to get that way. We strive to educate violators on proper waste disposal and give them time to rectify the problem as long as they work to make significant improvement. With their cooperation, we grant additional time to bring the site into compliance if needed.

The following case was outside the city limits of Lowell. The property owner had disabilities and was granted additional time to bring his property into compliance.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



This vacant property is located near the outskirts of Gravette. Evidence was located and after an interview with the suspect in Fayetteville, a citation was issued with the stipulation that the entire property be cleaned up within 30 days. The property was cleaned up and the citation was reduced to a warning.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



Staff Learning & Development – As an environmental law enforcement officer, it is important to be prepared for anything and capable of making sound decisions. To effectively serve the public, our officers need to continue to learn and develop their skills. In July Sr. Officer Filbeck had one hour of drone flight practice. Officers Filbeck and Sidwell practiced at the range with their firearms. Officer Spry studied 6 hours for her CDL license. CDL licensure is needed to operate the grapple truck used for roadside dump site removal and an environmental officer job requirement. Officer Sidwell received online training for Use of Force and Communications for Law Enforcement through the Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute. In addition she received online training for #CALM is Courageous, You Make the Call and Critical Task Agency in Service through the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. With ongoing officer training, we will continue to serve the community at the highest level possible.

A report was made of multiple dump sites near the outskirts of Avoca. Three dumpsites were located initially and two more were discovered the next day. Evidence was located from one of the piles of construction waste and after an interview of the suspect, it was discovered a "Haul Away" business found on Facebook had been paid to dispose of the waste. The property owner's check was able to be cancelled before cashed and a meeting was arranged with the suspects. The violator's were issued citations and ordered to clean up every dumpsite within ten days. All sites were cleaned up by the end of the day the citations were issued.



ENVIRONMENTAL CASE DATA Refer to the charts for environmental cases received and actions initiated in July.

VIOLATION TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	0
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	0
Burn (general waste)	1
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	0
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	0
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	0
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	0
Dumped by others (electronics)	0
Dumped by others (furniture)	1
Dumped by others (general waste)	0
Dumped by others (household garbage)	1
Dumped by others (metal)	1
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	2
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	2
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	2
Dumped by self (construction debris)	1
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	0
Dumped by self (general waste)	5
Dumped by self (household garbage)	3
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	1
Dumped by self (trees)	0
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	1
Camera	2
Extra Patrol	6
Littering	0
Sign installation	1
Stagnant Water	0

ACTIONS TAKEN THIS MONTH	QTY
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	0
WARNINGS ISSUED	0
CITATIONS ISSUED	8
WARRANTS ISSUED	0
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	26
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES OPENED YTD	240

What does the Environmental Division Investigate?

Environmental Officers are limited to enforcement of solid waste violations in unincorporated Benton County and do not regulate inside any city limits.

We DO NOT investigate septic issues, structure fires, agricultural waste, dead animals such as pets or wild animals, or the illegal disposal of hazardous material.

Our Division responds to violations of solid waste regulations that may include;

1. Construction or operation of a solid waste disposal facility or disposal site.
2. Dumping of solid waste upon property owned by another person.
3. Dumping of solid waste on the side of public roads or public property.
4. Solid waste on one's own property that can potentially create a public nuisance or health hazard.
5. Dumping of solid waste into a waterway.
6. Burning of solid waste.
7. Burying of solid waste.

